CLAIMS

1. A modular data and storage management system comprising:

a time variance interface that provides for storage into a storage media of data that is received over time, the time variance interface of the modular data and storage management system providing for retrieval, from the storage media, of an indication of the data corresponding to a user specified date; and

the retrieved indication of the data providing a user with an option to access specific information relative to the data, such as content of files that are included in the data.

2. The modular data and storage management system of claim 1 wherein the retrieved data comprises exchange data.

3. The modular data and storage management system of claim 1 wherein a logical view of the retrieved data is provided such that only a portion of the data is retrieved until specifically requested by a user.

4. The modular data and storage management system of claim 3 wherein the logical view creates a state of the modular data and storage management system that corresponds to an earlier state of the system.

5. The modular data and storage management system of claim 1 wherein the storage media is divided into more than one subset of storage media to provide a separate location for the data during the time that it is stored.

6. The modular data and storage management system of claim 5 wherein the data is migrated from one subset of storage media to another according to conditions such as

length of time the data has been stored, type of data that has been stored, user that has stored the data, combinations of the specified conditions and similar conditions.

7. The modular data and storage management system of claim 1 further comprising a retrieval manager module having a master storage and backup map that is used to direct access to the data of the storage media such that data is retrieved only when specifically requested by the user.

8. A method for a storage management system to display an index of stored data of a computer system and that allows a user access to a state of the computer system on a user specified date, the method comprising:

receiving data in the computer system;

storing the data into a storage media via an organizational scheme that provides a separate storage location for various versions, if any, of the data;

indexing the stored data according to the date that modifications were made to the data and according to the storage location of the data;

specifying a date on which to view the state of the computer system; and

retrieving the stored data that correspond to the state of the computer system on the specified date, the retrieved data including an option to retrieve additional data, if any, with respect to the retrieved data.

9. The method of claim 8 further comprising selecting the option to retrieve the additional data to thereby retrieve the additional data from the separate storage location of the storage media.

10. A method for a computer system to display information regarding data storage in the computer system that corresponds to a state of the computer system on a user specified date, the method comprising:

receiving data in the computer system;

indexing the data according to the date the data was originally received;

storing the data into a first storage media and a second storage media, the first storage media limited to indexing information of the data and the second storage media storing substantive data that corresponds to the indexing information;

specifying a date on which to view the state of the computer system; and

retrieving, from the first storage media, the stored data that correspond to the state of the computer system on the specified date, each of the retrieved data including display of an option to retrieve the substantive data, if any, from the second storage media.

11. The method of claim 10 further comprising selecting the option to retrieve the substantive data to thereby transfer data associated with the indexing information from the second storage media to the computer system.

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